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FM AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6102
INFO RHEHNSC/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHDC IMMEDIATE
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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: EUROPE: POPE BENEDICT IN TURKEY; SAO PAULO

"Benedict 16th, Diplomat"

Liberal, largest national circulation daily Folha de S. Paulo (11/30) editorialized: "If not a triumph of diplomacy, Pope Benedict's visit to Turkey at least indicates that the pontiff is paying attention to the religious dialogue and the political developments resulting from the so-called clash of civilizations.... If the diplomatic gesture is capable of helping the main Muslim religious authorities to subdue their believers' spirit, then the chances of repetition of violent episodes such as the protests unleashed in Denmark by the publication of cartoons considered offensive to Mohammed will diminish.... Obviously, the Catholic leader could not think otherwise.... It is clear that this will not be enough to disarm tensions or to make followers of one religion accept another one as equal, but it is already a step towards non-confrontation." McMullen